

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-10 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01
CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 EPG-02 COME-00 DLOS-09
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 ERDA-07 FMC-02
TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-14 JUSE-00 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-02 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05
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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9370
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USMISSION NATO

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USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, EEC, EI

SUBJECT: IRELAND-EEC: NEW FISHERY CONSERVATION MEASURES

REF. DUBLIN 727 DUBLIN 363

1. GOI MINISTER FOR FISHERIES BRIAN LENIHAN WAS IN BRUSSELS ON
JULY 18 TO DISCUSS WITH COMMISSION OFFICIALS AND EEC AGRICULTURE
AND FISHERIES MINISTERS NEW MEASURES DESIGNED TO PRESERVE FISH
STOCKS OFF IRISH COAST. ON JULY 13 THE EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE
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ORDERED GOI TO SUSPEND AS
DISCRIMINATORY THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT'S UNILATERAL FISHERIES
CONSERVATION PLAN WHICH HAD BEEN PLACED IN EFFECT LAST APRIL (SEE
REFTELS). THE SUSPENSION WENT INTO EFFECT AT ONE A.M. JULY 18.
BASICALLY THE NEW PLAN WHICH LENIHAN CARRIED WITH HIM CONSISTED OF
A 50-MILE BAN ON ALL HERRING FISHING (INCLUDING BY IRISH BOATS) AND
THE USE OF LARGER MESH SIZE IN NETS USED FOR WHITE FISH.

2. FOLLOWING LONG AND DIFFICULT MEETING THE GOI RETREATED FROM ITS PROPOSAL OF TOTAL HERRING BAN FOR A COMPROMISE INTERIM (THROUGH DECEMBER 31) PACKAGE ACCEPTABLE TO OTHER EEC GOVERNMENTS. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN DUBLIN COMPROMISE MEANS IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO NORTH-WEST FISHING GROUNDS BY BRITISH, DUTCH, FRENCH, GERMAN AND DANISH FLEETS UNTIL END OF THE YEAR, AND IMPOSES BAN ON HERRING FISHING IN MOST IRISH WATERS, BY ALL BOATS, UNTIL THE END OF THE SPAWNING SEASON (SEPTEMBER 1). AFTER SEPTEMBER 1 ALL IRISH HERRING FISHERIES WILL REOPEN BUT WILL BE SUBJECT TO STRICT QUOTAS. FISHING OFF DONEGAL (NORTH-WEST) WILL NOT BE AFFECTED, AND PRESENT QUOTAS WILL

REMAIN IN EFFECT. QUESTION OF LARGER MESH SIZE HAS BEEN TABLED UNTIL OCTOBER 25 WHEN THE NEXT EEC AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES MINISTERIAL WILL

CONVENE TO CONSIDER MORE PERMANENT CONSERVATION PROGRAM.

3. THE GOVERNMENT IN GENERAL AND LENIHAN IN PARTICULAR HAVE BEEN BLASTED LOCALLY BY OPPOSITION PARTIES FOR NOT RENDERING A STRONGER DEFENSE OF THE APRIL MEASURES, AND ESPECIALLY FOR LENIHAN'S PUBLIC CONCESSION THAT THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT'S BAN WHICH HAD BEEN PLACED ON LARGE TRAWLERS WAS "CRUDE AND BLATANTLY DISCRIMINATORY". THE IRISH FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION (IFO) HAS STRONGLY CRITICISED THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE COURT OF JUSTICE'S DECISION, AND HAS LABELED THE COMPROMISE PLAN "A TOTAL DISASTER". FISH PROCESSORS HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED DISMAY AT THE OUTCOME OF THE BRUSSELS MEETING.
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4. THIS CHAPTER HARDLY MARKS THE END OF THE FISHING SAGA. LENIHAN HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE GOI INTENDS TO PRESS FOR AN EXCLUSIVE 50-MILE ZONE IN THE OCTOBER EEC MEETINGS, AND THE GOI IS LIKELY TO COME UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM LOCAL FISHING INTERESTS TO MAKE GOOD ITS PLEDGE. SHANNON

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